

# House File 657 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 657  
BY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
OVERSIGHT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 238)

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to preparation and issuance of vital statistics  
2 certificates.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 144.45, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **144.45 Certified copies — other copies.**

4 1. The state registrar and the county registrar shall,  
5 upon written request from any applicant entitled to a record,  
6 issue a certified copy of any certificate or record in the  
7 registrar's custody or of a part of a certificate or record.  
8 Each copy issued shall show the date of registration; and  
9 copies issued from records marked "delayed", "amended", or  
10 "court order" shall be similarly marked and show the effective  
11 date.

12 2. A certified copy of a certificate, or any part thereof,  
13 shall be considered for all purposes the same as the original  
14 and shall be prima facie evidence of the facts therein stated,  
15 provided that the evidentiary value of a certificate or record  
16 filed more than one year after the event, or a record which  
17 has been amended, shall be determined by the judicial or  
18 administrative body or official before whom the certificate is  
19 offered as evidence.

20 3. The national division of vital statistics may be  
21 furnished copies or data which it requires for national  
22 statistics, provided that the state be reimbursed for the cost  
23 of furnishing data, and provided further that data shall not  
24 be used for other than statistical purposes by the national  
25 division of vital statistics unless so authorized by the state  
26 registrar.

27 4. Federal, state, local, and other public or private  
28 agencies may, upon written request, be furnished copies or data  
29 for statistical purposes upon terms or conditions prescribed  
30 by the department.

31 5. a. No person shall prepare or issue any certificate  
32 which purports to be an original, or certified copy, ~~or copy~~ of  
33 a certificate of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage except  
34 as authorized in this chapter.

35 b. No person, in the person's capacity as an employee or

1 agent of the state or a political subdivision of the state,  
2 shall prepare or issue any certificate which purports to be a  
3 copy of a certificate of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage  
4 except as necessary in the scope of the person's employment or  
5 agency or as otherwise authorized in this chapter.

6 EXPLANATION

7 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 This bill relates to the preparation and issuance of vital  
10 statistics certificates.

11 Under current law, a person is not allowed to prepare or  
12 issue an original, certified copy, or copy of a certificate  
13 of birth, death, fetal death, or marriage except as provided  
14 in Code chapter 144. The bill maintains these restrictions  
15 for originals and certified copies. For other copies, the  
16 bill provides that no person, in the person's capacity as an  
17 employee or agent of the state, or a political subdivision  
18 of the state, shall prepare or issue any certificate which  
19 purports to be a copy of such a certificate except as necessary  
20 in the scope of the person's employment or agency or as  
21 provided in Code chapter 144.